

October 16, 2002

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed is a package of proposed changes to the rules governing recreational fisheries for game fish, food fish, and shellfish. This notice is being sent to everyone on our sportfishing rule development list, which consists of approximately 2200 names. These include regulatory agencies, tribal biologists, sport clubs, and advisory groups. We look forward to receiving your comments or ideas concerning the proposed changes that are enclosed with this notice. This notice and the information is also available on our website at www.wa.gov/wdfw.

This regulation cycle is what we have termed a "minor cycle." In minor cycle years, we only accept proposals from department staff, and these are limited to conservation concerns, housekeeping issues, significant recreational opportunities, and commission requests or rules from other forums. All of the proposals in this package on pages 1-13 have the approval of WDFW at least to go forward for public comment. At the end of this document (pages 14-17) you will find a table listing proposals that were submitted this year but did not meet the criteria or receive approval to go forward.

The **public hearing** for these proposed rules will be held during the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting on December 6 and 7 at the Skagit County P.U.D, 1415 Freeway Drive, Mount Vernon, WA. The exact day and time has not yet been determined. Please check the Department's website or call the WDFW Fish and Wildlife Commission office at (360) 902-2449 prior to the meeting for details. Verbal testimony on the proposals may be presented at the hearing. Written testimony may be sent to Evan Jacoby, WDFW Rules Coordinator, at the above address. All written testimony must be received by Mr. Jacoby by November 29.

If you plan on attending, you may also submit written testimony at the hearing.

Both written and oral testimony will be carefully considered. **With one exception, final decisions on these proposals will be made at the public adoption hearing to be held in early 2003.** At the adoption hearing, these proposals: (a) may be adopted as proposed; (b) may be modified; or (c) may not be adopted. **The exception is that Commission action will be taken on Proposal #26 - No Annual Limit for Hatchery Steelhead- at the December meeting. This proposal, if adopted, would require changes in the catch record documents that require extra lead time. If adopted, this rule would take effect with the new 2003 license year beginning in April 2003. The effective date of any other changes will be May 1, 2003, unless otherwise noted in specific proposals that are adopted. Permanent rules remain in effect until formally changed.**

If you are a person with a disability and require accommodation for attendance, please contact Evan Jacoby at (360) 902-2930. This publication is available in alternate formats upon advance request. Please contact (360) 902-2200 or TDD (360) 902-2207. Please allow seven working days to process request.

The Pre-Season Salmon Management Process

Another process that shapes recreational fisheries in Washington waters is the North of Falcon process. The final product from this process is a management plan that coordinates recreational, commercial, treaty,

and non-treaty salmon fisheries north of Cape Falcon which includes both marine and freshwater areas in Washington State. Except where modified by a specific proposal, the salmon seasons listed in this document are the 2002-2003 seasons, and may be modified during the meetings described below.

A series of public meeting are scheduled in March and April in conjunction with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's ocean season setting process. These meetings are attended by federal, state, and tribal managers, special interest groups and concerned citizenry. You are welcomed and encouraged to attend any of these meetings. Please contact Customer Service at (360) 902-2700 for details. **The recreational rules resulting from the North of Falcon process will be included in the 2003-2004 sportfishing pamphlet.**

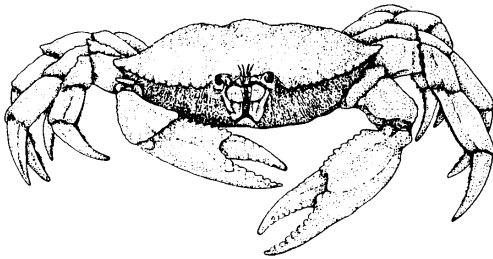
Pacific Halibut

The Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the International Pacific Halibut Commission have the primary responsibility for regulating this fishery. Rules for the 2002 recreational fishery for halibut have not been established. Final decisions on these rules will be made in early 2003. WDFW will be hosting a public workshop on the proposed regulations. For more information on this process, please call this number (360) 902-2825.

Thank you for your interest in Washington's fisheries resources.

Sincerely,

Sportfishing Rule Proposals



October 2002



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

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Conservation Regulations

#1. Freshwater Bivalves

Proposal: Place an aggregate daily limit of 10 on all freshwater bivalves (clams, mussels, etc.). No license is required. May be collected by hand only (no tools) Each harvester must have a separate container for his/her catch.

Explanation: Until recently, public interest in freshwater clams and mussels has been almost non-existent. However, over the past two years we have been receiving reports of a significant amount of harvest by a few individuals, and have heard some concerns over population sizes of one species of freshwater mussel. Currently there is no daily or possession limit for these animals. This rule would offer some level of protection until we get a better idea of their status. Collection by hand will lessen any possible damage to streambeds.

#2. Canary and Yelloweye Rockfish Protection

Proposal: Make the daily limit for canary and yelloweye rockfish 0 in Marine Areas 5-13. In Marine Areas 1-4, allow anglers to retain one canary rockfish and no yelloweye rockfish.

Explanation: Canary and yelloweye rockfish are two species of rockfish which are orange in color. Both are commonly called "red snapper" by anglers, and are long-lived species and may reach ages in excess of fifty years. While never common in Puget Sound, both species have virtually disappeared from the harvest by sport anglers throughout Puget Sound. The department has no estimates of the abundance of these two species in Puget Sound. However, anecdotal evidence indicates that both canary and yelloweye rockfish have declined in abundance. Both species have declined in Washington coastal areas and these declines have resulted in severe restrictions on fishing along the coast. This proposal provides protection for these two species by applying similar restrictions to inland waters, and adding additional protection for canary rockfish in ocean areas.

#3. Yelloweye Rockfish Protection Zone

Proposal: Close an L-shaped area in Marine Areas 2 and 3 to fishing for halibut and bottomfish. Coordinates for this area are 48°00'00" 124°59'00", 48°00'00" 125°18'00", 48°04'00" 124°59'00", 48°04'00" 125°18'00", 48°04'00" 125°11'00", 48°04'00" 125°18'00", 48°18'00" 125°11'00", and 48°18'00" 125°18'00".

Explanation: Anglers would be able to fish for salmon in this area, but would not be allowed to fish for halibut or bottomfish, and would not be able to fish for salmon if they had a halibut or bottomfish on board. In the past, part of the area was closed to fishing for halibut. It has been the site of a popular halibut fishery with a high bycatch of yelloweye.

#4. Aggregate Daily Limit for Bottomfish in Marine Areas 1-4

Proposal: Create an aggregate daily limit of 15 for bottomfish in Marine Areas 1-4. This includes the sublimits of no more than 10 rockfish (no more than one canary rockfish, and no yelloweye rockfish allowed) and no more than 2 lingcod.

Explanation: Currently, there is no daily limit for most species of bottomfish in coastal waters. The only species of bottomfish with daily limits are lingcod, surfperch and rockfish. The Pacific

Fishery Management Council has adopted an aggregate daily limit for other species of bottomfish in 2003 in coastal waters further than three miles from shore. These other species include species such as greenling, cabezon and flounder. This proposal is in support of the Council's proposal and would extend the limits to coastal waters less than three miles from shore.

#5. Shrimp Seasons and Districts

Proposal: Create a Shrimp District in Port Townsend Bay. This District and Marine Area 10 will only be open for shrimping on Thursdays and Saturdays each week. The second part of this proposal is a housekeeping change where the Discovery Bay and Port Angeles Harbor Shrimp Districts and the spot shrimp season in a large portion of Puget Sound will be managed by emergency rule.

Explanation: The shrimp season in Port Townsend Bay (part of Marine Area 9) and Marine Area 10 has become extremely short over the past few years, due to a rapid increase in the number of fishers participating. The recreational quotas have been reached more quickly each year. This year, the quotas in these areas were taken so fast under the current four open days-per-week rule that our ability to manage within the quotas was compromised. A change to two days-per-week will help rectify the situation. This change should also help lengthen the season due to the reduced number of fishing days each week. Because Port Townsend Bay is part of Marine Area 9, but the number of open days per week and the non-spot season length is different in Port Townsend Bay than the remainder of Marine Area 9, classifying Port Townsend Bay as a Shrimp District will simplify the WAC's and the Pamphlet language.

As for the housekeeping proposal, currently, quotas for spot and nonspot shrimp are established for each area of Puget Sound, and fisheries close by emergency rule when these quotas have been reached. This proposal just recognizes the situation and puts it into rule. This should make both the rules and the pamphlet easier to understand.

#6. Mayfield Lake Salmon Rules

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MAYFIELD LAKE (RESERVOIR) (Lewis Co.) from Mayfield Dam to Mossyrock Dam	Trout	Year-round	8"	5	
	Other Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide Rules		
	SALMON	Sept. 1 - Dec 31	8"	6	No more than 2 adults - wild COHO release.

Explanation: Landlocked salmon rules are no longer appropriate in Mayfield Lake because coho are no longer planted with the intent of providing them for a resident trout fishery. Coho and fall chinook are part of a reintroduction program into the upper watershed and wild coho will be provided an additional level of protection over the marked hatchery fish. This regulation change does not affect the existing fishery for trout and other game fish and allows a salmon season when adults and jacks are available.

#7. Lake Scanewa Salmon Rules

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SCANEWA LAKE (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) (Lewis Co.)	Trout	June 1 - Feb. 28	8"	5	CUTTHROAT release.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Feb. 28		Statewide Rules	
	SALMON	June 1 - Feb 28	8"	6	No more than 2 adults - wild COHO release. Release wild chinook June 1 - July 31.
The upstream boundary of the reservoir in the Cowlitz are is the posted Lewis County PUD sign on Peters Road. The upstream boundary of the reservoir in the Cispus arm is the posted markers at the Lewis County PUD kayak launch, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the confluence of the Cowlitz and Cispus arms.					

Explanation: Landlocked salmon rules are no longer appropriate in Lake Scanewa because coho are not planted with the intent of providing them for a resident trout fishery. Coho and fall chinook are part of a reintroduction program into the upper watershed and wild spring chinook and coho will be provided an additional level of protection over the marked hatchery fish. This regulation change does not affect the existing fishery for trout and other game fish and allows a salmon season when adults and jacks are available.

#8. Cowlitz River - Clear and Muddy Fork Trout Rules**Proposal:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COWLITZ RIVER Clear Fork and Muddy Fork (Lewis Co.)	Trout Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	8" Statewide Rules	2	CUTTHROAT release.

Explanation: This proposal reduces the daily limit for trout to 2, the statewide standard for streams, and removes the restriction that no more than one trout may be over 12" in length. The daily limit of 5 trout, with no more than one over 12" was in effect when catchable size and large (one pound) trout were being planted. Hatchery trout are no longer planted into the Clear and Muddy Forks, so they should revert back to the normal stream rules.

#9. Hamilton Creek Season**Proposal:**

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
HAMILTON CREEK (Skamania Co.)	Trout Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	12" Statewide rules	2	Wild CUTTHROAT release
CLOSED WATERS - all tributaries downstream of the Hwy. 14 Bridge.					

Explanation: This proposal gives Hamilton Creek a normal stream season. The extended season (Nov 1 - Mar 15) is no longer appropriate since the stream is no longer planted with hatchery winter steelhead, and there are chum salmon present that need protection later in the year.

Housekeeping Regulations

#10. Clam and Oyster Beaches - Names and Seasons

Proposal:

Clam Beaches

- 1) Ala Spit (Ben Ure Spit) - becomes *Ala Spit*.
- 2) Dungeness Spit - should reference *Dungeness Spit and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge Tidelands*.
- 3) Fort Flagler State Park - should reference *Fort Flagler State Park including that portion of the spit west of the Park Boundary (Rat Island)*.
- 4) North Sequim Bay State Park - becomes part of Sequim Bay State Park.
- 5) Port Townsend Ship Canal - should reference *Port Townsend Ship Canal/Portage Canal*.
- 6) Quilcene Bay - should reference *Quilcene Bay Tidelands* - all state-owned tidelands in Quilcene Bay north of a line drawn from the Quilcene Boat Haven to Fisherman's Point are closed to the harvest of clams the entire year, except those *state-owned* tidelands on the west side of the bay *north of the Quilcene Boat Haven* are open April 1 through December 31.
- 7) Shine Tidelands - should reference *Shine Tidelands State Park*.
- 8) Triton Cove Oyster Farm - should reference *Triton Cove Tidelands*.

Oyster Beaches

- 1) Brown Point - should reference *Brown Point (DNR 57-B)*.
- 2) Mystery Bay - should reference *Mystery Bay State Park*.
- 3) Quilcene Bay - should reference *Quilcene Bay Tidelands* - all state-owned tidelands in Quilcene Bay north of a line drawn from the Quilcene Boat Haven to Fisherman's Point are closed to the harvest of oysters the entire year, except those *state-owned* tidelands on the west side of the bay *north of the Quilcene Boat Haven* are open April 1 through December 31.
- 4) Triton Cove Oyster Farm - should reference *Triton Cove Tidelands*.

Explanation: Name changes are proposed for several clam and oyster beaches. These changes will make enforcement and public use easier by making the names correspond with beach signs, names on maps, and local usage. Reference to "North Sequim Bay State Park" is deleted because no such Park exists (there is only a Sequim Bay State Park, and both the northern and southern "halves" have the same shellfish season). The only change which is not strictly confined to beach names and descriptions is the proposal to no longer close Quilcene Bay Tidelands at night (currently, this is the only beach statewide with such a restriction, and there is no rationale for the closure; since it is open April through December, a prohibition of night harvest would prevent most winter harvest). All other season changes will be detailed this fall, as usual, after we analyze this year's harvest data.

#11. Crab Pot Escape Rings

Proposal: This proposal would set the minimum size for escape rings on crab pots used in the Columbia River at 4".

Explanation: Because of the smaller minimum size for Dungeness crab in the Columbia River (5 3/4" vs 6 1/4" elsewhere) the minimum size for escape rings on these pots needs to be made smaller to allow legal-sized crabs to be retained.

#12. Forage Fish Dip Nets Mesh Size

Proposal: Make the maximum mesh size for forage fish dip nets 1/2".

Explanation: Last year, a rule was adopted describing a forage fish dip net as "a section of netting distended by a rigid frame and directly attached to a rigid handle." This was in response to the practice of some anglers who were using the gear like a gill net, and was intended to stop this practice. Unfortunately, this is still occurring to some extent. Limiting the gear to this small mesh size should take care of the problem.

#13. Spot Shrimp Daily Limit and Head Retention

Proposal: This proposal would remove the permanent rule that requires anglers to retain spot shrimp heads in Hood Canal. In Discovery Bay Shrimp District anglers would be allowed to retain a maximum of 80 spot shrimp as part of the 10 pound daily limit of shrimp.

Explanation: Since there is no size limit for spot shrimp in Hood Canal, anglers do not need to retain the heads. This rule is usually removed each year in the emergency rule opening the Hood Canal shrimp fishery. The change in the daily limit of spot shrimp for Discovery Bay Shrimp District makes the rules more consistent by making it the same as the rest of Puget Sound (with the exception of Hood Canal).

#14. Mill Creek

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
MILL CREEK (Walla Walla Co.) from mouth to Roosevelt St Bridge within city limits of Walla Walla	All Game Fish STEELHEAD	June 1 - Aug 31 Sept 1 - April 15	Statewide rules 20"	2	Hatchery STEELHEAD only. Barbless hooks required.
	CLOSED WATERS - from concrete channel at 9 th Ave Bridge to Roosevelt St. Bridge, within city limits of Walla Walla.				
from Roosevelt St. Bridge upstream	All Game Fish	June 1-Oct 31	Statewide rules		Selective gear rules. CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD.
CLOSED WATERS - all tributaries, including Blue Creek.					

Explanation: Due to a typographical error, the closed waters description in the upper creek was listed incorrectly last year. This proposal makes the reference correct.

#15. Dry Falls Lake Season

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
DRY FALLS LAKE (Grant Co.)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Apr. 1 - Nov 30 Apr. 1 - Nov 30	None Statewide rules	1	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.

Explanation: Through an agreement with WA State Parks, we are able to open the season on Dry Falls Lake April 1 instead of the last Saturday in April, providing almost a month of additional fishing opportunity.

#16. Cashmere and Nason Creek Ponds

Proposal: Drop the “juvenile only” designation for these waters.

Explanation: Cashmere and Nason Creek Ponds are both listed as “juvenile only” waters. In actuality, neither of these ponds exist, having been washed out by floods. This change will remove them from the pamphlet, so anglers are not misled to think that a kid’s fishing opportunity exists.

#17. Kiwanis Pond

Proposal: Correct the spelling of Kiwanis Pond.

Explanation: This water has been listed incorrectly in the rule as Kiwanas Pond (listed correctly in the pamphlet).

#18. Tucquala Lake

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
TUCQUALA LAKE (Kittitas Co.)	All Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31		Statewide rules	

Explanation: Tucquala Lake is not currently listed in the fishing pamphlet. It is located in a stretch of the Cle Elum River where selective gear rules were put in place last year. Because Tucquala Lake is a lake, the river rules do not apply to it. There are currently no special rules listed for Tucquala Lake. However, managers would like the lake to have the same season as the adjoining sections of the Cle Elum River (June 1 - October 31). This does require a special rule, because without it the lake would be open year-round.

#19. Skagit River

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SKAGIT RIVER (Skagit/Whatcom Co.) From mouth to Memorial Hwy Bridge (Hwy 536 at Mt. Vernon)	TROUT Dolly Varden/Bull Trout Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round Year-round	14" 20" Statewide rules	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules Mar 1 - May 31 except motors allowed. DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT may be retained as part of TROUT daily limit.
	SALMON	Sept 1- Dec 31	12"	2	SALMON - release all CHINOOK.
The mouth is defined by a line projected from terminus of the jetty with McGlinn Island to white monument on east end of Ika Island, then to white monument on east end of Craft Island, then to white monument near corner of levee on west side of Dry Slough, then to white monument on east side of Tom Moore Slough.					

Explanation: this proposal allows anglers to fish from a boat with a motor during the selective gear fishery near the river mouth (March 1 - May 31). Normally, under selective gear rules, fishing from a boat with a motor is prohibited, but because of the size of the river this is not practical. Rules for the rest of the river remain unchanged.

#20. Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SKYKOMISH RIVER Wallace River to forks	TROUT Dolly Varden/Bull Trout Other Game Fish	June 1 - Feb 28 June 1 - Feb 28 June 1 - Feb 28	14" 20" Statewide rules	2	
	SALMON	Sept 1- Dec 31	12"	2	SALMON - release all CHINOOK.
ALL SPECIES - night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction Aug 1- Nov 30. CLOSED WATERS - area 1500' upstream to 1000' downstream of Reiter Ponds outlet June 1 to 8:00 a.m. August 1. Fishing from a floating device prohibited 8:00 a.m. Aug 1 to Feb 28.					

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
SNOQUALMIE RIVER (King Co.) From mouth to Snoqualmie Falls	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Feb 28 June 1 - Feb 28	14" Statewide rules	2	
	SALMON	Sept 1- Dec 31	12"	2	SALMON - release all CHINOOK and PINK SALMON.
ALL SPECIES- night closure Sept 1 - Nov 30. Selective gear rules except motors allowed June 1 - Nov 30. Fishing from any floating device prohibited Nov 1 - Feb 28 from boat ramp at Plumb access to mouth of Tokul Creek (about 1/4 mile). CLOSED WATERS - within Puget Power tunnel at falls and within 50' of any point on Puget Power's lower Plant #2 building (north bank).					

Explanation: This proposal applies the prohibition for fishing from a floating device to all species instead of just game fish in a portion of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers. All other rules remain the same. This makes the floating device prohibition more enforceable, since as it stands, anglers could claim to be fishing for salmon and the prohibition (currently only for game fish) would not apply. (Note - on the Skykomish River, the end date for the fishing from a floating device prohibition was changed from Mar 31 to February 28 to mirror the end date of the fishery.)

#21. Duwamish Waterway Gear Rules

Proposal :Between a line projected east along the path of SW Hanford Street on Harbor Island and a line projected east from the southern tip of Harbor Island - night closure and terminal gear limited to bait suspended below a float. Forage fish gear prohibited. These rules apply when Elliott Bay is open for salmon within the months of July-October.

Explanation: This corrects an inadvertent error in the permanent regulations that were adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission last year. It was corrected by emergency rule in 2002.

#22. Definition of Mayfield Lake, Riffe Lake, Cispus River Mouth

Proposal: Define Mayfield Lake as between Mayfield Dam and Mossyrock Dam. Define Riffe Lake as between Mossyrock Dam and Cowlitz Falls Dam. Define the mouth of the Cispus River as posted markers at the Lewis Co PUD kayak launch, located about 1.5 miles upstream from the confluence of the Cowlitz and Cispus arms of Lake Scanewa.

Explanation: Under statewide rules, the mouth of a river is described as a line projected between the outermost uplands (those lands not covered during ordinary high water). This proposal gives anglers a clear definition of the reservoirs (which have different fishing rules than the river. It also makes the definition of the mouth of the Cispus River the same as the upper boundary of Lake Scanewa.

#23. Cowlitz River Sections

Proposal: Change the WAC listing a section of the Cowlitz River from Mayfield Dam to the mouth of the Muddy Fork to "from posted Lewis Co PUD sign on Peters Road upstream to the mouth of the Ohanepecosh and Muddy Rivers. All other rules remain unchanged.

Explanation: This proposal does not affect the fisheries in the Cowlitz , just cleans up the language in the WAC. The above proposal defines Mayfield and Riffe lakes. Lake Scanewa is already defined. So the area between Mayfield Dam and the end of the Cowlitz arm of Lake Scanewa (posted Lewis Co PUD sign on Peters Road upstream to the mouth of the Ohanepecosh and Muddy Rivers) consists of only the three lakes (Mayfield, Riffe and Scanewa) and should not be mentioned in the Cowlitz River rule.

#24. SF Chehalis Bridge Reference

Proposal: Change the bridge reference in the SF Chehalis River from the Highway Bridge at Boistfort to the Highway Bridge at Boistfort School.

Explanation: There are several bridges in this area, causing some confusion as to what section of the river is referred to in this rule. This rule should make it clear which bridge is the boundary marker.

Significant Recreational Opportunities

#25. Hanford area Steelhead and Ringold Area Bank Fishery

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
COLUMBIA RIVER from Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco to Old Hanford townsite wooden powerline towers	STEELHEAD	Oct 1 - Mar 31	20"	2	STEELHEAD only. Only STEELHEAD with <u>both</u> an adipose fin clip and a ventral fin clip may be retained.
	BASS	Year-round	None	5	BASS-No more than 3 over 15".
	CHANNEL CATFISH	Year-round	None	No limit	
	OTHER GAME FISH	Year-round	Statewide Rules		
	SALMON	Aug 16-Dec 31	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults
	STURGEON	Year-round	48"	1	STURGEON - maximum size 60"
CLOSED WATERS - within a 400' radius of the Columbia Irrigation District (CID) fish barrier at the mouth of the CID wasteway at Columbia Park.					
Ringold Area Bank Fishery - Waters of Columbia River adjacent to Ringold Hatchery from WDFW markers 1/4 mile downstream for the Ringold wasteway outlet to WDFW markers 1/2 mile upstream of Spring Creek. Only the hatchery side is open. Bank fishing only.					
	STEELHEAD	Apr 1 - Apr 15	20"	2	STEELHEAD only. Only STEELHEAD with <u>both</u> an adipose fin clip and a ventral fin clip may be retained.

Explanation: This proposal creates a permanent rule for the steelhead fishery in the Columbia River from the Hwy 395 Bridge in Pasco to the Old Hanford townsite wooden powerline towers and the Ringold area Bank Fishery that can go into the fishing pamphlet, giving anglers advance notice of the open time period and restrictions. The Ringold Area Bank Fishery extends an additional 2 weeks beyond the fishery in the entire river section. The additional rule to retain only steelhead with both an adipose fin clip and a ventral fin clip allows fish bound for waters above Priest Rapids Dam to be released, maximizing escapement to this area. This rule change is dependant on WDFW obtaining a permit modification in December.

#26. No Annual Limit for Hatchery Steelhead

Proposal: Remove the annual limit for hatchery steelhead.

Explanation: Currently there is a limit of thirty steelhead per angler per license year. Of these, up to 5 may be wild steelhead. This proposal would retain the yearly limit of 5 wild fish, but remove the limit of 30 steelhead (wild and hatchery fish combined). This would allow anglers to harvest more hatchery fish, help alleviate surplus returns to hatcheries, reduce the number of hatchery fish spawning with wild fish, and would probably improve our catch accounting for steelhead. Anglers with more than one catch record card who intend to harvest wild steelhead would need to carry all their cards to show enforcement officers how many wild fish they kept throughout the license year.

#27. Upper Grande Ronde Steelhead

Proposal:

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
GRANDE RONDE RIVER (Asotin Co) mouth to County Rd Bridge (about 2-1/2 miles upstream)	TROUT Other Game Fish	Year-round Year-round	10" Statewide rules	2	TROUT: Release all steelhead. ALL SPECIES: selective gear rules Sept 1 - May 31.
from County Rd Bridge to Oregon state line and all tributaries	All Game Fish All Game Fish	June 1 - Aug 31 Sept 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules Statewide rules		Selective gear rules. Barbless hooks required.
	STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH	Nov 1 - April 15	20" None	2 15	Hatchery STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH only. Barbless hooks required. Tributaries CLOSED to fishing for STEELHEAD and WHITEFISH.

Explanation: This proposal shortens the selective gear restriction in the upper river to June 1 - August 31, allowing anglers to use bait beginning on September 1 (but still requiring barbless hooks). The selective gear rule is intended to protect wild salmonids in the mainstem and tributaries. Allowing anglers to use bait beginning September 1 will make it easier to catch hatchery steelhead.

Rules from Other Forums and Major Issues WDFW Made a Commitment to Address

#28. North Silver Lake

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NORTH SILVER LAKE (Spokane Co)	Trout Other Game Fish	March 1 - Sept 30 March 1 - Sept 30	14" Statewide rules	2	ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules. TROUT - release TROUT with clipped adipose fin.
	All game fish	Nov 1 - Dec 31			Catch and release only. Selective gear rules.

Explanation: Commission request.

#29. Crab Creek and Tributaries Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
CRAB CREEK and tributaries (Grant/Lincoln Co)	All Game Fish	Year-round	Statewide rules		
ALL SPECIES - Night closure and only one single hook measuring 3/4" or less from point to shank may be used from State Hwy 17 upstream to Grant Co Rd 7 Mar 1 - May 31.					

Explanation: The current rule, which closes the area from State Hwy 17 upstream to Grant Co Rd 7 Mar 1 - May 31, was contested by landowners in the affected area. Due to an increased level of Enforcement personnel in the Region and improved landowner relations in the affected area, WDFW's enforcement capability has improved. The proposed regulation is a compromise that will substantially reduce the illegal activities (snagging) that anglers have complained about to WDFW without closing the area entirely.

#30. Naches River Trout Catch and Release Fishery Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
NACHES RIVER (Yakima Co) mouth to confluence with Tieton River	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	12" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - maximum size 20". ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only one single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size #14) may be used.
from confluence with Tieton River to Rattlesnake Creek	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	Statewide rules		TROUT - catch and release only. ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only one single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size #14) may be used.
from Rattlesnake Creek upstream	TROUT Other Game Fish	June 1 - Oct 31 June 1 - Oct 31	12" Statewide rules	2	TROUT - maximum size 20". ALL SPECIES - selective gear rules.
	WHITEFISH	Dec 1 - Mar 31	None	15	WHITEFISH only. Only one single hook 3/16" or smaller measured point to shank (size #14) may be used.

Explanation: This proposal is a Commission request to change the rules on the section of the Naches River from its confluence with the Tieton River to Rattlesnake Creek to catch and release for trout. A five-year study to determine impacts on the trout population (abundance, population size structure, etc) and angler effort, etc. is being conducted to document any changes.

#31. EF Lewis River

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
LEWIS RIVER, EAST FORK (Clark/Skamania Co)	TROUT	June 1 - Mar 15	20"	2	TROUT - catch and release except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from posted markers at the lower end of Big Eddy to 100' upstream of Lucia Falls, from 400' downstream to 400' upstream of Moulton Falls, from 400' downstream of Horseshoe Falls upstream, including all tributaries.					

Explanation: Commission request to address cutthroat conservation and concerns related to wild steelhead smolt and spawner protection. Also increases harvest of hatchery steelhead and allows other game fish such as bass and catfish to be harvested.

#32. WF Washougal River

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WASHOUGAL RIVER, WEST FORK (Clark/Skamania Co)	TROUT	June 1 - Mar 15	20"	2	TROUT - catch and release only except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		
CLOSED WATERS - from mouth to water intake at WDFW Hatchery.					

Explanation: This proposal closes the trout harvest fishery except for hatchery steelhead. This is a Commission request to address cutthroat conservation and concerns related to wild steelhead smolt and spawner protection.

#33. Washougal River

Proposal

WATER	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	ADDITIONAL RULES
WASHOUGAL RIVER (Clark Co)	TROUT	June 1 - Mar 15	20"	2	TROUT - catch and release only except up to 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained.
	Other Game Fish	June 1 - Mar 15	Statewide rules		
	SALMON	Aug 1 - Mar 15	12"	6	SALMON - no more than 2 adults. Release all CHUM. Wild COHO release. Upstream of Little Washougal River release all CHINOOK Oct 1 - Dec 31.
The mouth is defined as a straight line projected from the James River pumphouse southeasterly across the Washougal River to the east end of the Hwy 14 bridge at the upper end of Lady Island. ALL SPECIES - night closure and non buoyant lure restriction Sept 1 - Oct 31. CLOSED WATERS - from bridge at Salmon Falls upstream including all tributaries.					

Explanation: This proposal closes the trout harvest fishery except for hatchery steelhead. This is a Commission request to address cutthroat conservation and concerns related to wild steelhead smolt and spawner protection.

#34. Standard Stream and Lake Seasons

Proposal: Change the standard stream season from June 1 - Oct 31 to June 1 - Nov 30. In addition, all non-standard season streams that now close October 31 would close November 30 under this proposal. Extend seasons for lakes that now close October 31 to November 30. This would include many opening day lakes and some lakes with early openers, etc.

Explanation: Commission request to provide more fishing opportunity during the fall. (Note: if adopted, this proposal would create season changes in some of the lakes and streams listed in earlier proposals in this mailout. To reduce confusion over what is changed by each proposal, the proposed extended seasons are not shown.)

Proposals that Did Not Meet 2003 Minor Year Criteria

In minor rule cycle year, proposals are only accepted from WDFW staff, and one or more of the following criteria must be met:

- 1) Conservation need
- 2) Housekeeping issue
- 3) Significant recreational opportunity is addressed
- 4) Commission request, rule from another forum

The following table lists proposals that were received this year that did not move forward for review because they did not meet these criteria. The Department is not seeking comments on these proposals this year. They are provided only for informational purposes.

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
Mike Ramsdell (public)	King Crab harvest in Areas 4&5. 6 1/4" minimum size, daily limit 1, either sex. Possession limit 3.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Delete term "smelt rakes" from 220-56-265	no	not needed - dropped
WDFW Staff	Greenling daily limit of 3 within the aggregate limit of 15 in Areas 5-13	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Rockfish season in Areas 5-13 only open with salmon	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Rockfish daily limit 0 in Areas 10, 11, 13	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Rockfish daily limit 0 in Areas 5-13 except 3 black rockfish allowed in Area 5 west of Sekiu	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Pamphlet page 57 trout info move line up	no	no rule, pamphlet issue

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
WDFW Staff	Define freshwater clams and mussels as unclassified invertebrates	no	use freshwater shellfish proposal
WDFW Staff	Fishing contests text in pamphlet should reflect rule	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Snake River trout pamphlet listing - move "release steelhead" up with trout	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Bobcat Creek and Ponds - change opening date to April 1	no	not needed, WAC is correct, pamphlet is wrong
WDFW Staff	Touchet River - move "all game fish" up one line	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Tucannon River pamphlet listing - change display of area in the pamphlet	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Little Pend Oreille River fishery boundary - change to western fence boundary of the LPO Wildlife Refuge instead of Buffalo Road.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Lucky Duck Pond juveniles only	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Columbia Basin Hatchery Creek season - delay opening to April 1 because of availability of fish	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Snake River walleye daily limit 10, no more than 5 over 18", no more than 1 over 24".	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Columbia River walleye daily limit 10, no more than 5 over 18", no more than 1 over 24".	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Yakima basin no daily limit, size or gear restrictions on warmwater fish	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Leech Lake trout limit no more than 1 over 12".	no	wait for major cycle

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
WDFW Staff	Selective gear rules wording in pamphlet	no	no rule, pamphlet issue
WDFW Staff	Hooking salmon in the mouth in freshwater areas	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Fort Borst Pond - change to juveniles only	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Klickitat River - chinook jack fishery daily limit 6, min size 12"	no	North of Falcon issue
WDFW Staff	Cowlitz River - adjust closed waters near dams	no	wait for next year - modify proposal
WDFW Staff	Tilton River trout fishery - drop 1 fish over 12" requirement, steelhead season extended to May 31.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Cispus River trout fishery - drop 1 fish over 12" requirement.	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Bonneville Pool night closure to start Aug 1	no	North of Falcon issue
WDFW Staff	Filleting rule - retain proof of compliance while in field	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Drano Lake daily limit 2 salmonids	no	wait for major cycle
WDFW Staff	Columbia R Bonneville to I-5 bridge - no C&R fishery for sturgeon	no	talk with Oregon
	Columbia & Snake Rivers - no daily limit, size or gear restrictions for warmwater fish	no	wait for major cycle
William Aker (public)	soft-shell crab info in the fishing pamphlet	no	pamphlet issue
William Aker (public)	Move the boundary line for salmon fishing closer to the Triton Cove boat launch	no	North of Falcon issue

Submitted by	Subject	Criteria Met?	Result
Jim Tuggle (WA council of TU)	Upper Quinault River - extend the steelhead season through April 15	no	assessed yearly based on run size - wait for major cycle
Jim Tuggle (WA council of TU)	Sea-run cutthroat release required in streams where the adjacent saltwater season/rules require wild cutthroat release	no	wait for major cycle
	Satsop and Wynoochee River boat ban - held over from last year - no proposal yet from Grays Harbor City Commissioners		